

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 01415 131155Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 W
-----005753 131222Z /11
R 131111Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8102
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: IPP-77; OPIATES TESTS FOR REFUGEES

1. SUMMARY: THE LOCAL ICEM OFFICE INFORMED US THAT THE RTG, WHICH HAS BEEN PERFORMING URINALYSIS FREE OF CHARGE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETECTING OPIATES, WILL HENCEFORTH CHARGE TEN BAHT (U.S. FIFTY CENTS) PER TEST. WE BELIEVE THE TEST IS NECESSARY, PARTICULARLY FOR HMONG REFUGEES, TO DETERMINE ADMISSABILITY TO THE UNITED STATES UNDER IMMIGRATION LAW. THE ICEM OFFICE PLANS TO PROPOSE TO ITS GENEVA HEADQUARTERS THAT THE CHARGE TO THE UNITED STATES FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR ADULT REFUGEES IN THAILAND BE RAISED FROM \$6 TO \$6.50. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL ICEM OFFICIALS MET WITH OFFICERS OF THE EMBASSY REFUGEE SECTION JANUARY 10 TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF THE OPIATES TESTING PROGRAM IN THAILAND. THE RTG MILITARY LABORATORY IN BANGKOK, WHICH UNTIL DECEMBER 23 PERFORMED THE REQUIRED URINALYSIS FREE OF CHARGE, WILL BEGIN CHARGING TEN BAHT PER TEST.

3. WE TOLD THE ICEM REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE
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PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONTINUED FOR ALL REFUGEES EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER WHEN INS APPROVED FOR PAROLE INTO THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY HMONG REFUGEES. WE INFORMED ICEM THAT WE WOULD PROVIDE THEM WITH THE NAMES OF REFUGEES TO BE TESTED.

4. ICEM PLANS TO CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM EITHER DURING

PRE-DEPARTURE PHYSICALS IN BANGKOK, OR FOR SELECTED CAMPS, BY SENDING MEDICAL TEAMS, UNANNOUNCED, TO THE CAMPS TO TAKE URINE SAMPLES. IN EITHER CASE, THE SAMPLES THEN GO TO THE RTG MILITARY LABORATORY IN BANGKOK WHICH WILL REPORT, NORMALLY WITHIN TWO DAYS, WHETHER THE SAMPLES CONTAIN TRACES OF OPIUM OR ITS DERIVATIVES SUCH AS CODEINE OR HEROIN. THE TESTS ARE QUITE SENSITIVE AND WILL GIVE POSITIVE RESULTS EVEN, FOR EXAMPLE, IF A PERSON HAS BEEN TAKING NORMALLY PRESCRIBED DOSES OF CODEINE-BASED COUGH SYRUP WITHIN THREE DAYS. THE ANALYSIS IS QUANTITATIVE AS WELL AS QUALITATIVE.

5. ICEM ROUTINELY RE-TESTS ANY REFUGEE WHOSE FIRST RESULTS ARE POSITIVE, AND GIVES A THIRD TEST TO ANYONE WHOSE SECOND TEST IS POSITIVE.

6. NO REFUGEE WHOSE TEST RESULTS ARE POSITIVE WILL BE ALLOWED TO DEPART FOR THE U.S. UNTIL AN ICEM DOCTOR AND A REFUGEE OFFICER, NORMALLY THE DEPUTY REFUGEE COORDINATOR, INTERVIEW THE INDIVIDUAL AND SATISFY THEMSELVES THAT HE IS NOT ADDICTED TO OPIATES.

7. THE LOCAL ICEM OFFICE WILL PROPOSE TO ITS GENEVA HEADQUARTERS THAT THE CHARGE TO THE UNITED STATES FOR MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF ADULT REFUGEES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAILAND BE RAISED FROM \$6.00 TO \$6.50.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEES
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Draft Date: 13 jan 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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